A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Tuesday, November 19. 1706.

I Am now upon the Subject of Objections againſt the Union, and as I verily believe by the Agreement in the Arguments, that the Objections, both from one ſide and t'other, come both from the ſame Hands; ſo I think, their ridiculous Foundation will equally expoſe them, and I deſire the Reader to mark the Contradictions of both.

The *Engliſh* Court, ſay they in *Scotland*, may bribe the 45 Commons and 16 Lords in the Parliament of *Britain*, and they may joyn with our Countries Enemies to betray *Scotland* to the *Engliſh*.

But in the *Scots* Parliament they pretend they are ſafe, and the Church will be ſecured by them; for they cannot be brib'd, bought or biaſs'd.

Again, the Court may get all Epiſcopal *Scots* Men to repreſent the Kingdom of *Scotland* at the Parliament of *Britain*.

But they can get none, that will ſo much as agree to a Toleration of Epiſcopacy, while they belong to the Parliament of *Scotland*; ſo that to Day they may be brib'd, to morrow they cannot; to Day they may be all Epiſcopal Men, to morrow they will be a Security againſt Epiſcopacy.

Now take the *High Churchmen* in *England*, and their Abſurdities are not fewer than theſe; to Day they tell us, 45 *Scots* Men will bring *Presbytery* into *England*; to Morrow the *Diſſenters* in *England* are not one to twelve, and we muſt force the *Scots* to reſtore the Church. Thus one Way a thing is great, and another Way ſmall; one Way ſecure, and another Way in Danger.

Now

Now let us place these People one against another in each Kingdom. In *England* 45 *Scots* Commoners and 16 Lords will certainly bring in *Presbytery*, and pull down the Church of *England*: In *Scotland*, they will joyn to bring in Episcopacy, being brib'd and bought to pull down the Church of *Scotland*.

To Day they are so many, they will endanger the *English* Church; to Morrow so few, they can't defend their own.

To Day they will be so true to *Presbytery*, they will never leave caballing to pull down Episcopacy; to Morrow so false, they will sell their Country, joyn in voting Episcopacy up in *Scotland*, and reduce the present Church to a Toleration.

These things are very confounding. and no Man can be prepar'd to debate with Men, that will thus go upon all manner of Possibilities.

I confess in my weak Observation, I think, they come all from the same Fountain, and are agitated by the same Spirit; I mean from *England*, where a vigorous Party struggles against the Union of the Kingdoms, as the only Mischief can befal their *High Church* Cause, and effectually deprive them of the Opportunities of embroiling both Nations.

I wish, the Kingdom of *Scotland* a little better inform'd of the Practices of those People, and entirely deliver'd from their Influence. I observe all, or most Part of the Pamphlets against the Union are form'd in *England*, and sent from thence, in which the Author suggests things false in Fact, presuming upon the Distance of the Place, and that they shall be taken upon their Word.

They represent the Union as a thing, which depends wholly upon the Parliament in the Kingdom of *Scotland*, and the *English* entirely acquiescing in the Matter. Nay, some have represented it as a thing, we in *England* are courting and wheedling them into, in order to bring them under; and that there is nothing to do, but to get the *Scots* to comply with it.

I do believe, that in *England* there is a general happy Disposition to this Union, especially in the wisest, best and greatest Part of the Kingdom; and that this Temper is exceedingly promoted and encreased by Her Majesty's steady Adherence to it, as the only Means to secure the Peace and Happiness of both Nations, and as much as possible, crushing, checking and discouraging the Party that are against it: And I do acknowledge to believe, that this happy Disposition is such at this Time, that if the Parliament of *Scotland* closes with it, and no unreasonable Difficulties are raised there, it will be compleated here.

But I entreat the Gentlemen in *Scotland* to bear with me in telling them, this happy Temper in *England* has not been so easie a thing to procure. Abundance of visible Providences have been remarkably concurring to bring this Conjuncture to such a Crisis. Great Havock has been made by their own Follies, in the Interest of a Party under an Administration, that would never have made the Attempt.

Victories of various Sorts have contributed to the Work, and a Connection of Wonders have brought it to pass. A Conquest at Home superiour to *Blenheim* or *Ramellies*, has been made over the dividing Spirits of the High Party. Peace and Union has made large Strides, and rid over the Bellies of their vanquish'd Enemies, Envy, Malice, Jealousie and Party-Strife.

The QUEEN, nay the Bishops too, have been call'd a thousand *Presbyterians*, Deserters of the Church, and all that is scandalous. Every moderate *Churchman* has been a Confessor in this Cause, and gone through Scandal, Reproach, and all Sorts of Opposition for espousing it.

What Tacking, what Projecting, what Caballing have the Party attempted, as the Struggles of their wicked Cause? And with what Difficulty has this Juncture been brought to pass?

Nor are the Party yet in Despair, but with all imaginable Vigour and Artifice they carry on their dying Cause, and dispute Inch by Inch every Step———The last Game they have to play, is the Union, if they can't destroy that, *they own*, the Union will destroy them; and I am very sorry to see the Subtilty of their Proceedings extends so far.

They

They leave no Stone untur'd, they play *Whigs* againſt *Whigs*, and *Churchmen* againſt *Churchmen*, *Presbyterians* againſt *Presbyterians*: they amuſe with Jealouſies on one Hand, raiſe Scruples on the other. In *England* they rail, gibe and banter; in *Scotland* they plead theſe very things for Arguments, which they own their Averſion to.

Now I would humbly recommend to the Gentlemen in *Scotland*, who really are for ſecuring their Church, how come Church of *England* Men, *High-Church*, *hot Epiſcoparian* Diſputants to talk of your Security? Does the Fox Preach, *Gardè les Poules*, have a Care of the Geeſe.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have always made Room for my Defence againſt the Suppoſition of laying any ſuch Streſs and Weight upon the Circumſtances of things, as ſhould be binding to their Events, or ſeem to leſſen the Dependance, every Action has upon inviſible Providence; and therefore tho' I take great Notice of the Concurrence of Circumſtances, and the ſtrange Revolutions of Times, yet does my Obſervation of Days lead to no Superſtition, or at all bind up the Providence of GOD to ſuch Circumſtances—— Which tho' to us they are remarkable, yet when turn'd that Way, are Trifles.

Thus, when I obſerved, the Mareſchal *De Theſſe* with his Army bearing the Sun in their Enſigns, with the Motto *Nec Pluribus Impar*, flying before the *Engliſh* Arms, juſt when the Sun in the Firmament was under an extraordinary Eclypſe; I think it might be allow'd to afford a very pleaſant Remark to us, how Heaven ſeem'd to concur in the Eclypſe of *French* Power, without ſo much as thinking, that the Circumſtance was at all concern'd in the Event.

I am now to acquaint the World with a new Circumſtance, to me very pleaſant to remark, tho' I lay no Streſs upon it, that is at all Superſtitious or Enthuſiaſtick.

The Parliament of *Scotland* had been making ſeveral previous Steps towards the ſtrong Debate that was to come before them, relating to the Union——— They had met with ſtrange Oppoſitions, Rabble, threatning Speeches, buffooning Pamphlets, Queries, Calculations, and at laſt to a meer Tumult; ſo that they were fain to call in TROOPS OF HORSE, as I may alluſively call it, I mean, the Military Power to aſſiſt the Civil Magiſtrate in preſerving the Peace——Which as it was done firſt by Requeſt of the Magiſtrate, was after approv'd by the Privy-Council, and by a great Majority confirm'd for GOOD LAW by the Parliament, and this in a Nation entirely reſtor'd to Liberty and Property.

After this, the Articles having been read, and debated on, previous to the Matter, as if all theſe Circumſtances had concurred to bring on the great Juncture. The Day appointed for the firſt and great Queſtion to be put upon the Subject of the Union in general, and of the Manner and Kind of Union, as included in the firſt Article, was, by what ſecret Providence I do not determine, On the 4*th* of *November*, the Birth-Day of a Prince, I mean King *William*, by whoſe Endeavours and happy Proſecution of Tyranny, Liberty was reſtor'd, Religion eſtabliſh'd, and theſe Nations plac'd in a Figure, out of the Fear of all Manner of Invaſion.

A Prince by whom, under God, Union has its Proſpect, from whom this very Union had its firſt Propoſal.

A Prince by the Bleſſing of Heaven, upon whoſe Arms Conſtitution is reſtor'd, the Law reinthron'd, Juſtice triumphs, Parliaments ſitt, and Her Majeſty, to the Joy of theſe Kingdoms, now reigns.

I do confeſs, it was to me a Token of Succeſs and a Signal, (I do not ſay a Cauſe, I would not be miſtaken) that this Union for this Benefit of both Nations, for the Peace of *Britain*, and for the Happineſs and Eſtabliſhment of the Proteſtant Intereſt in *Europe*, ſhall be effectually brought to paſs.

I could enter upon a great many happy things, that Day has been bleſs'd with, as his Marriage with the Princeſs *Mary*, afterwards Queen of *England*; his Reſtoration to the Privileges of his Anceſtors in *Holland*, his coming into *Torbay* to reſtore the Liberty, and knock off the Chains of *Britain*: But I refer them to a more ſuitable Occaſion.

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